



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jun 11, 2002

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Draft Spiny Dogfish Plan Now Available for Public Comment *State Meetings Scheduled for MA, RI, NY, NJ, MD, VA, NC*

Washington, DC – The Atlantic coastal states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Public Hearing Draft of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. Following are the details of the scheduled meetings.

July 11, 2002; 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Roanoke Island Festival Park
One Festival Park
Manteo, North Carolina
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 15, 2002; 7:00 PM

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Fourth Floor
Newport News, Virginia
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

July 17, 2002; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
Ocean County Southern Resource Center
225 Recovery Road
Manahawkin, New Jersey
Contact Bruce Freeman at (609)292-2083

July 18, 2002; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Brunswick Community College
Aquaculture Facility
Supply, North Carolina
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 15, 2002; 7:00 PM

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Best Western Bridge - Bourne Hotel
100 Towbridge Road
Bourne, Massachusetts
Contact: Dr. David Pierce at (617) 626-1532

July 16, 2002; 6:00 PM

Rhode Island Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
3 Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, Rhode Island
Contact: Brian Murphy (401)423-1941

July 17, 2002; 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
North Carolina State University
Center for Marine Sciences & Technology (CMAST)
303 College Circle
Morehead City, North Carolina
Contact: Red Munden at (252)726-7021

July 23, 2002; 7:00 PM

New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Marine Resources, Conference Room
205 North Belle Meade Road
East Setauket, New York
Contact: Gordon Colvin at (631)444-0433

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

1444 Eye Street, N.W. -- Sixth Floor -- Washington, D.C. 20005
(202)289-6400 (phone) (202)289-6051 (fax)
www.asmfc.org

July 25, 2002; 7:00 PM

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Worcester County Board of Education Complex
6270 Worcester Highway (Route 113)
Newark, Maryland
Contact: Howard King at (410)260-8264

On May 22, 2002, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board approved the Public Hearing Draft of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. The document provides the states' proposed goals and objectives in managing the spiny dogfish resource in state waters and provides an extensive series of proposed options for interstate management. Some of the management options in the document include harvest levels, trip limits, alternative fishing seasons, and a variety of quota allocation schemes.

"I am very pleased with the document that we have approved today for public comment," stated Board Chair John Connell from New Jersey. "It provides an extensive slate of management options upon which our fishing and non-fishing constituencies can provide comment and captures the states' intent to continue to work cooperatively with our federal partners in the management of this important resource."

The Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Shark Management Board first initiated development of the plan in 1999, with the intent of coordinating on-going federal actions in the Exclusive Economic Zone. Under the federal plan, the fishery is managed through a constant fishing mortality strategy that currently allows for a four million-pound quota, divided into two periods (May 1 – October 31 and November 1 – April 30).

Since August 21, 2000, the states have regulated the spiny dogfish commercial fishery through a series of emergency actions, which close state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish when there is a closure in federal waters. The final extension of the Spiny Dogfish Emergency Action will expire January 31, 2003. The Management Board intends to approve the final FMP during the Commission's Annual Meeting in November.

Copies of the Public Hearing Draft can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org. Public comment on the document will be accepted until **August 5, 2002** and should be forwarded to Megan Gamble, Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 200005; (202)289-6051 (fax); or at [<mgamble@asmfc.org>](mailto:mgamble@asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Megan Gamble at (202) 289-6400, ext. 317.